LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

JERRY C. CIRINO, COMMISSIONER

JASON W. BOYD, ADMINISTRATOR

JOHN R HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER LEGAL COUNSEL

RON YOUNG, COMMISSIONER MIKE MATAS, BUDGET DIRECTOR

JENNIFER BELL, CLERK NEWS MEDIA

(Tape 2020-0709)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Hamercheck called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.Thursday, July 9, 2020.

ROLL CALL: Upon roll being called, Commissioners Cirino, Young and Hamercheck were present. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that Commissioner Young is joining by telephone which is fully compliant with the COVID-19 regulations that the County is currently operating under.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young, the minutes of the Regular Meetings of June 18, 2020 and June 25, 2020 were approved as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

<u>OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</u>: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Lake County Administrator Jason Boyd read a statement submitted by email from Mr. David Lima, of 7774 Litchfield Drive in Mentor, "I would like to address my remarks today concerning the comments made by Commissioner Cirino in last week's meeting.

Although his comments acknowledged the flaws that have been part of this country's history and those that have been corrected, he ignored the social action measures that corrected those flaws. His labeling of activists working to "form a more perfect union" as "intellectually deficient" is offensive.

It is important to point out that it is unlikely that those flaws would have been corrected without the actions of those who were "left out" from the very beginning when the Constitution provided protection only to white, male property owners. Oppression breeds discontent and discontent leads to action. The First Amendment guarantees the right of the people to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Individuals like Ida B. Wells, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr. spearheading the civil rights movement, and Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt working diligently for women's rights and the right to vote all worked to have a more inclusive and just nation. Intellectually deficient? I think not.

To characterize those of us who are active in bringing about a socially, economically, racially and politically just country as "intellectually deficient" is insulting. Commissioner Cirino should issue a public apology for those comments."

Commissioner Cirino thanked Mr. Lima for his comments regarding intellectual deficiency and stated that this is not the time or place for debate but many people who have taken these positions are uneducated on the issues and therefore intellectually deficient. He does stand by it.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID CONTRACT TO COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA, INC. FOR LAKE COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT SALT – 2020 (UNTREATED BULK ROCK SALT) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 454,140.00 AS REQUIRED BY THE LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER(20200709\E01)(E-3)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young. Lake County Engineer Jim Gills explained that the cost for untreated bulk rock salt this year is about \$50, and it is \$20 below the next lowest bidder. There were 3 bidders. This is the best price that has been seen in a number of years. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

2. RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID CONTRACT TO POLYDYNE FOR ORGANIC POLYELECTROLYTES (POLYMER) FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20200709\U01)(UT-4)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young. Mr. Gary Fedak, Director of Operations of the Lake County Department of Utilities, reported that this resolution and the next resolution sound similar. They are for the Wastewater Department at the GLK facility, and they are for two different contracts for two separate treatment processes at the plant.

The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

3. RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID CONTRACT TO TIDEWATER PRODUCTS, INC. FOR ORGANIC POLYELECTROLYTES (POLYMER) FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20200709\U02)(UT-4)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

4. RESOLUTION APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES OF COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,366.30 FOR HUNTING LAKE DRIVE SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION, JOB NO. 20-11 IN CONCORD TOWNSHIP (20200709\U03)(UT-9)

On a motion by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Cirino, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

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5. RESOLUTION CERTIFYING UNPAID SEWER AND WATER SUMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES TO THE LAKE COUNTY AUDITOR (20200709\U04)(UT-7)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

6. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH BURGESS & NIPLE, INC. FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE SERVICES FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20200709\U05)(UT-4)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young. Mr. Fedak explained that this resolution is for a part-time Program Manager to assist the Department of Utilities in 2020 as a facilitator through the design process for larger capital projects. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

7. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES SEWER OPERATING FUND AND PROJECT FUND 596, TWILIGHT LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS 439-S (20200709\U06)(UT-2)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

8. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH GPD GROUP FOR TOWNLINE ROAD WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT 433-W FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES (20200709\U07)(UT-4)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young. Mr. Fedak explained this resolution is for a capital project to design a new waterline at the intersection of Ridge and Townline roads. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

9. RESOLUTION REVISING THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE (20200709\C01)(C-107)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

10. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND VARIOUS ENTITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE FY-2019 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS (20200709\C02)(C-46)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

11. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION AND THE CITY OF EASTLAKE FOR THE GALALINA AREA STORM SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT PHASE 2(20200709\C03)(UT-46a)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

12. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER, AND THE OHIO COUNCIL 8, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO, EXPIRING MARCH 31, 2023 (20200709\C04)(301c)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young. Mr. Gills stated that the employees at the garage decided to become a bargaining unit and this resolution authorizes the agreement. The terms are agreed upon and they are ready to move forward. This is a 3-year contract that begins retroactively on April 1, 2020.

The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

13. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,444,076.15 (20200709\BC01)(C-4)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

14. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$147,325.86 (20200709\BC02)(C-17)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

15. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20200709\BC03)(C-111)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

16. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20200709\BC04)(C-111)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

17. RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ANNUAL TAX BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021 (20200709\BTAX)(C-8)

On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young. Mr. Mike Matas, Budget Director, stated that no public comments were received. A public hearing was held a few weeks ago. Mr. Matas explained that the tax budget for 2021 was prepared on the premise that the Commissioners would only approve expenditures up to the estimated revenues for 2021 in the General Fund. The General Fund is for any fund that receives property tax levy money within the county which is the General Fund, JFS Child Welfare Fund, Board of Developmental Disabilities, ADAMHS Board, Narcotics Agency, Crime Lab and Senior Services. This is for the property tax levies that are currently in place as required by the ORC. The General Fund is 1 mills, Child Welfare is 1.10 mills, Board of Developmental Disabilities is 4.90 mills, ADAMHS Board is 1.60 mills, Narcotics Agency is .30 mills, Crime Lab is .70 mills and the Senior Citizens Levy is .80 mills. The document is unchanged and in late summer, the County will receive rates from the Auditor and the gross mill will be what it was the last few years.

Commissioner Hamercheck thanked Mr. Matas for his hard work and diligence.

The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

<u>UTILITIES</u> – Mr. Fedak reported that the Board will soon see paperwork for an EPA grant received from the EPA/Volkswagen settlement for diesel mitigation and the Utilities Department will begin placing orders to buy fleet vehicles from the program. The money will be fronted by the County when placing order with approval for reimbursement. He also reported that with the hot weather there has been an increase in water usage. The plants have sufficient capacity.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES - none.

<u>COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR</u> — Mr. Jason Boyd stated that the Small Business Loan Committee recently met and approved a handful of grants and there are a few larger loans that are being underwritten. The County is moving forward with a few critical capital projects such as parking enhancements near the Courthouses and new generators for both Courthouses. The buildings will have 100% backup power by the end of the year. Some security enhancements are being done in the lobby of Probate Court. Local firms are doing the work and we are doing a cost-share venture with TeleComm and the Buildings & Grounds Departments.

<u>FINANCE</u> – Mr. Mike Matas reported that all departments were requested to reduce their budgets by 5% and all of the departments have complied and been very helpful. April sales tax projections are expected to be in soon.

Commissioner Cirino stated that he spoke with the Treasurer's Office today and learned that, as of today, the County is \$10 million below last year. This is an indicator of the state of the economy and distressed households. He extended an invitation to the Lake County Auditor and Lake County Treasurer to attend a meeting to report on second half numbers as compared to prior years.

Mr. Matas stated that he is aware they are adjusting and reducing next year's estimated collections to 94% for next year from 96%. On a positive note, many people paid a full year of taxes in the first half of the year.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that Mr. Matas is very well informed and brings a lot of depth because he has many years of experience and has worked for the Auditor of State and Lake County Auditor.

<u>CLERK</u> – Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the resolution revising the meeting schedule is changing the meeting on July 23 back to the Commissioner Chambers at 10:00 a.m. The next regular Commissioners Meeting will be Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 10:00 am. There will not be a Commissioners meeting next week.

LEGAL - none.

 $\underline{\text{OLD BUSINESS}}{:} \text{-} \textbf{Commissioner Hamercheck asked about the status of Madison Avenue}.$

Mr. Gills explained that the pavement on Madison Avenue dropped another 12 inches. The Engineer's Office received clearance from ODOT to conduct repairs to the wall and include this in the Madison Avenue road contract. The contractor has started on plans for the repair of the wall. He hopes that plans will be completed around August 15 so it will go out to bid in the fall. Mr. Gills reported that Vrooman Road Bridge is open in one direction going southbound. It is the longest county road bridge in the State of Ohio. Crews are working on undercutting the north side of Vrooman Road and the project was reduced \$200,000 because of subwork, which may speed up the completion of the project. He thinks that the project may be done by Labor Day.

Commissioner Cirino stated that he and his wife drove up to the bridge on the south side recently and it is quite impressive with a beautiful view. There is a spot to pull over and see down over the bridge. It is worth a stop. Commissioner Hamercheck asked about the pedestrian bridge.

Mr. Gills replied that the pedestrian bridge is open and stated that there is also an impressive view from Masons Landing Park that is nearby.

<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>: - Commissioner Cirino reported the unemployment rates in Lake County for May were 15.1% which is higher than the State and U.S. levels. He is hopeful that June will reflect a turn in the other direction. This percentage shows the significant impact of COVID-19 on businesses and residents in Lake County. It is a ripple effect and filters down to tax collections.

Commissioner Hamercheck stated that Lake County had the second lowest unemployment rate in the State prior COVID-19. The Commissioners are taking COVID-19 seriously.

Commissioner Young agreed with both Commissioners and stated that this is a serious issue and we must protect Lake County businesses as well as our fellow citizens. He thought that Lake County has done well in both these categories.

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<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u>: Commissioner Hamercheck asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. No one present wished to address the Board at this time.

<u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u>: On a motion by Commissioner Cirino, seconded by Commissioner Young, the Board convened an Executive Session at 10:35 a.m. to discuss Personnel-Compensation, with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 10:38 a.m.

<u>ADJOURN</u>: On a motion by Commissioner Hamercheck, seconded by Commissioner Cirino, the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m. with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Cirino, Young, and Hamercheck "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this sixth day of August, 2020.

BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS		
JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, PRESIDENT	RON YOUNG, VICE PRESIDENT	
JERRY C. CIRINO, COMMISSIONER	JENNIFER BELL, CLERK	